AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) Method for examining an ocular fundus, comprising:

generating images of the ocular fundus by means of a camera and/or an illumination unit;

evaluating quality of the images;

comparing the images with image patterns corresponding to one or more diseases to determine, with a degree of certitude, whether the images are classifiable as indicating one or more of said diseases; and

controlling position of ~~at least one of~~ the camera ~~and/or the illumination unit~~ optimally for further evaluating quality of the images and degree of certitude of classification of the images as indicating said one or more diseases;

<u>controlling position of the illumination unit optimally for further evaluating quality of the images and degree of certitude of classification of the images as indicating said one or more diseases</u>.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein said controlling is implemented over a closed control circuit to a control unit of said camera and/or illumination unit; and

said controlling position and further evaluating are repeated until the certitude of the disease classification is satisfactory.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said comparing generates parameters for new position settings of said camera and/or illumination unit.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the classification is performed by means of a pattern recognition algorithm.

13. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said control of the position of said camera and/or illumination unit is via a pattern recognition algorithm.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10, wherein: a laser comprises said camera and/or illumination unit;

a beam from the laser scans the ocular fundus; and

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~~at least one of a scanning area, a focus of the laser beam and~~ intensity of

the laser beam is changed under control of the control unit.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein at least

one of the change of the scanning area and the focus of the laser beam is effected

by optics.

16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the

comparing is effected by means of a computer.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for examining an ocular fundus,

comprising:

recording at least one image of the ocular using at least one of a

camera and an illumination unit;

evaluating a quality of the at least one image;

comparing the at least one image with existing image data <u>not of the</u>

<u>ocular fundus being examined</u> which are characteristic for at least one disease to

determine, with a degree of certitude, whether the images are classifiable as

indicating at least one of said at least one disease; and

positionally controlling at least one of said at least at least one of said camera and said illumination unit optimally for further evaluating quality of the images and degree of certitude of classification of the images as indicating said at least one disease.

18. (New) A method for examining an ocular fundus, consisting of:

recording at least one image of the ocular using a single camera and at least one illumination unit;

evaluating a quality of the at least one image;

comparing the at least one image with existing image data which are characteristic for at least one disease to determine, with a degree of certitude, whether the images are classifiable as indicating at least one of said at least one disease; and

positionally controlling said single camera or at least one of said at least one illumination unit optimally for further evaluating quality of the images and degree of certitude of classification of the images as indicating said at least one disease.

19. (New) Method for examining an ocular fundus, comprising:

generating images of the ocular fundus by means of a camera and/or an illumination unit;

evaluating image quality of the images themselves to ensure accuracy and reliability of the images;

comparing the images with image patterns corresponding to one or more diseases to determine, with a degree of certitude, whether the images are classifiable as indicating one or more of said diseases; and

controlling position of at least one of the camera and/or the illumination unit optimally for further evaluating quality of the images and degree of certitude of classification of the images as indicating said one or more diseases.

20. (New) Method according to claim 19, wherein the step of evaluating image quality is performed by individually analyzing each of the images for accuracy and reliability without comparison to any other image.